

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 08289 110448 Z

14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 DPW-01 AID-20 IO-12 RSR-01 /140 W

----- 031851

R 110410 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1509

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: VISITS TO GVN CIVIL PRISONS

REF: A. SAIGON 6942

B. SAIGON 7418

C. SAIGON 7859

D. STATE 079600

1. GVN HAS ISSUED INVITATIONS TO THE HEADS OF MISSIONS OF THE DIPOL-MATIC COMMUNITY IN SAIGON TO VISIT CON SON ON SUNDAY, 27 MAY. AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE HAS ACCEPTED. THIS IS THE FIRST CONCRETE INDICATION WE HAVE HAD THAT THE GVN IS GOING TO MAKE GOOD ON PRESIDENT THIEU' S OFFER TO OPEN THE PRISONS TO INSPECTION (REF D).

2. QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN RAISED AT PRESS BRIEFINGS MAY 8 AND 9 RE GVN PLANS FOR PRESS TOURS OF CIVIL PRISONS. SPOKESMAN REPLIED MAY 8 THAT THE TOUR WOULD TAKE PLACE " IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS." ON MAY 9 HE SAID " BEFORE JUNE 10." HE ALSO ASSURED REPORTERS THAT RETURN TRANSPORTATION FROM CON SON WOULD ALSO BE PROVIDED. THIS AT-TEMPT AT HUMOR DID NOT GO OVER WELL.

3. COMMENT: THE GVN IS MOVING WITH HABITUAL CAUTION AND DELIBERATION IN TRANSLATING PRESIDENT THIEU' S OFFER INTO REALITY.
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CAREFULLY CONDUCTED DIPLOMATIC AND PRESS TOURS OF CON SON,
WHICH IS ONE OF THE BEST PRISONS IN VIET- NAM DESPITE ITS REPUTA-
TION, ARE A FAR CRY FROM THE SYSTEM- WIDE INSPECTION BY RED CROSS
OR OTHER EXPERT OBSERVERS THAT ONE MIGHT HAVE INFERRED WAS BE-
ING OFFERED BY PRESIDENT THIEU. END COMMENT.
WHITEHOUSE

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Disposition Authority: willialc
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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SECSTATE WASHDC
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